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Chicopee Register

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2020 a year in review

By the Chicopee Register newsroom

CHICOPEE – It's no surprise that the top story on everyone's radar in 2020 was the novel coronavirus outbreak and subsequent pandemic. Despite the challenges presented by the pandemic, there have been several highlights in the City of Chicopee in 2020, including Mayor John Vieau being sworn into office, the fire department's first all-woman fire crew taking shift, and uniquely memorable graduations in each of the city's high schools, to name a few.

Here's a look at the top stories published in the Register this year:

Mayor John Vieau takes his oath during a Jan. 6 ceremony on the campus of Elms College. *PHOTO BY LEONARD YAKIR*

John Vieau sworn in as Mayor of Chicopee

As snow fell outside, Mayor John Vieau breathed life into a Monday morning audience during his inauguration ceremony. The Jan. 6 gathering on the campus of the College of Our Lady of the Elms signified the city's bold leap into the future.

"I became involved in politics in Chicopee because I love our city," said Vieau. "When I think of Chicopee, I think of the five villages, each different in its own way. We will continue to enhance the community."

State politicians, town officials, city workers, family, friends and an array of residents filled the Veritas Auditorium inside of Berchmans Hall to witness Vieau take the oath of office. Over the course of several minutes, he thanked all who contributed to his campaign.

"I stand before you today to reflect on the past few months. When you run for Mayor, you can't do it alone; you need a team. My team started with my family and friends, and it grew into something very special," said Vieau.

Over the course of his political career, Vieau served as a town official under three different mayoral administrations. For the past four years, he assumed the role of City Council President while employed as a real estate appraiser for the state's Department of Transportation, which granted him a leave of absence.

Joined by Chief Dan Stamborski [second left], [L to R] FF Valerie Stein, FF Kristen Therrien and Fire Lt. Dina Brunetti became the city's first all-female fire crew on Jan. 17. *PHOTO SUBMITTED BY CFD*

Chicopee Fire Department sees first all-woman crew

News of an accomplishment spread quickly through the city after three female firefighters formed the Chicopee Fire Department's first all-woman crew on Jan. 17. Lieutenant Dina Brunetti and firefighters Kirsten Therrien and Val Stein made history and said they appreciate the recognition that they've received.

All the while, each woman endeavors to be remembered for more. The three firefighters have assumed the roles of pioneers as they attempt to empower young women locally and beyond.

"I really hope that we can get to that point where it's just the norm. It would be nice some day to have a balance of gender [in the department]. I don't want women to feel like they can't [be firefighters] because they absolutely can," said Stein, who split time between Pittsfield and South Carolina growing up.

Stein was motivated to become a firefighter by those who said that she couldn't because she was a female. Brunetti overcame similar opposition and shared an important message.

"Yes, I can drag a 200-pound man. Yes, I've been in fires. Yes, I took the same test as the men. Strong doesn't always matter. Intelligence does. There's different elements of firefighting, and it's not all about the old days of kicking in windows and breaking down doors and throwing people over your shoulder," said Brunetti, an officer at Station 7.

City's coolest cat garners an online following

On a frigid winter afternoon, a 65-year-old Chicopee resident made an acquaintance that altered the course of his life. It was on that day that Pandoli met Maxwell Edison, a feral, homeless cat in need of his help.

By sharing Maxwell's story, Pandoli hopes to inspire others to care for one of the many homeless animals who live in the city; braving the elements, hoping to survive another day.

"It was the second week of January; we had this pretty brutal ice storm," said

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The year of COVID-19

Tracking the pandemic

By Dalton Zbierski
Staff Writer

CHICOPEE – For most people, 2020 has been one of the most tumultuous years on record. Many residents will remember this year primarily for COVID-19, an unprecedented virus that has killed hundreds of thousands of Americans and sickened millions more.

On Dec. 22, the city of Chicopee reported that 2,209 total residents have tested positive for the novel coronavirus this year. As of Tuesday afternoon, there were 959 active COVID-19 cases within the city's limits.

While 22 Chicopee residents have succumbed to the virus, 1137 others have recovered. The threat remains real, however, as 4,162 new cases of COVID-19 were reported in the Commonwealth on Dec. 21.

"The pandemic has brought us together to find new ways to talk to each other as we overcome difficulties and make the best of the situation. I am proud of the citizens of Chicopee and our employees for their creativity, caring, sharing and understanding."

– Mayor John Vieau

The timeline: From March to present-day

From the beginning, Mayor John Vieau has been at the forefront of the city's massive effort to curb the spread of the virus. On March 30, at the onset of the pandemic, Vieau described how his schedule was altered in its entirety.

"Over the last few weeks, my focus has completely changed," said Vieau on March 30. "Instead of meeting people, conducting outreach events and understanding the issues that are important to my constituents,

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Happy Holidays
from all of us
at the
Chicopee Register

2020
Babies first Christmas

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SPORTS
Changes affect game approach

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City offers free COVID-19 testing at Chicopee Comp

A COVID-19 mobile testing site is open at Chicopee Comprehensive High School, now through Dec. 30, Mayor John Vieau announced in a press conference Dec. 18.

On Dec. 22, the City of Chicopee began to offer appointment-free COVID-19 testing to any First Responder, all City of Chicopee residents (over the age of two), and City of Chicopee Municipal employees and their families without the need for insurance or the ability to pay.

Every test will be administered for free. This new testing site will administer up to 20,000 tests for up to three months or till the tests run out.

The following COVID-19 drive-through testing times will be available next week for any First Responder, ALL City of Chicopee residents, and City of Chicopee Municipal employees and their families (up to 400 per day):

Monday, December 28th | 8 a.m. - noon
Tuesday, December 29th | 8 a.m. - noon
Wednesday, December 30th | 8 a.m. - noon

The city is operating this as a drive-through only testing site while the state continues to provide walk-up testing locations at other area locations that can be found at https://www.mass.gov/covid-19-testing.

Patients must visit the CCHS site in their vehicles, as testing will be done in their car. No walk-ups will be allowed.

Any First Responder, all City of Chicopee residents, and City of Chicopee Municipal employees and their families can simply visit the new drive-through site at Chicopee Comprehensive High School beginning at 8 a.m. until noon on any of the above available dates.

Although no appointment is required, you can speed the process by completing the necessary intake form online, print it, and bring it with you (including the required proof of Chicopee residency).

The intake form can be found here: https://www.chicopeema.gov/FormCenter/Information-Technology-16/Chicopee-Comp-COVID-TestSite-Form-246

"We needed to offer local testing to many more city residents to better prevent its spread," said Lisa Sanders, Chicopee health director. "Testing will also give us a better idea of when we may begin to lessen the current health orders."

Up to 400 patients are expected to be tested daily at the new site and the results will be garnered within 24 hours as these are PCR tests. PCR testing is considered the "gold standard" in SARS-CoV-2 detection. This test detects RNA (or genetic material) that is specific to the virus and can detect the virus within days of infection, even those who have no symptoms. Turnaround time can be in as little as 24 hours. When demand is high, results can take a bit longer.

Symptoms that may warrant a test include cough, shortness of breath, fever, chills, fatigue, muscle ache, sore throat, headache, vomiting, nausea, diarrhea, the recent loss of taste or smell, or confusion, particularly in older adults.

"We will continue to require every one of our residents to follow the CDC social distancing guidelines, to wear a face covering, wash your hands frequently, and stay home if you feel sick," stated Mayor John L. Vieau. "We are very pleased to be able to offer another way for our city's residents to help keep each other safe. Have symptoms? Go get tested."

Chicopee resident, Frank Newton, joins HCC Foundation board

HOLYOKE – HCC Foundation, Inc., the nonprofit fundraising arm of Holyoke Community College, has added seven new members to its Board of Directors and elected a new slate of officers.

At the HCC Foundation's annual meeting on Dec. 8, held over Zoom, the Foundation board voted in the following new directors for three-year terms, four of whom are HCC alumni:

· Nikki Burnett '91 of Springfield, executive director, Educare Springfield;

· Cynthia Shea Desroches '18 of South Hadley, treasurer/manager, Holyoke Postal Credit Union;

· Kip Foley, of Holyoke, entrepreneur;

· Deana McPherson '90 of Granville, chief Financial Officer, Smith & Wesson Brands, Inc.;

· Frank Newton of Chicopee, leader/teacher, Music Department, Pioneer Valley Performing Arts Charter Public School;

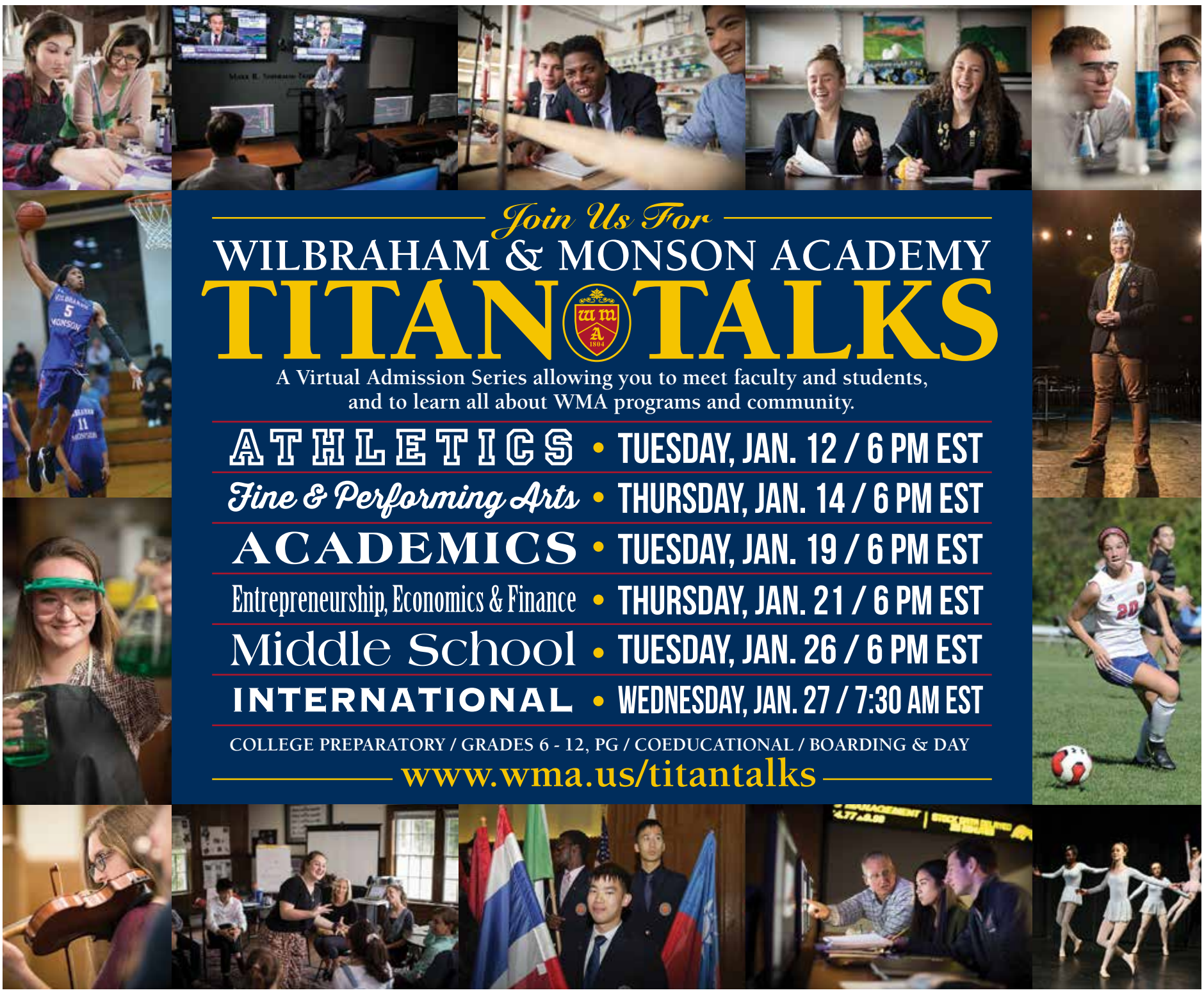
· Israel Rivera '16 of Holyoke, area studies program manager / Center of Latin American, Caribbean and Latino Studies, UMass Amherst;

· Michael Roundy of Westfield, attorney/partner, Bulkley, Richardson & Gelinas.

"We are thrilled to welcome this group of talented individuals to the HCC Foundation Board of Directors," said Amanda Sbriscia, HCC's vice president of Institutional Advancement and executive director of the HCC Foundation. "Their breadth and depth of expertise, along with that of our entire board, will have a tremendous impact on the Foundation's ability to make an immediate and lasting difference in our community."

Also at the Dec. 8 annual meeting, Corey Murphy of South Hadley, president of First American Insurance Agency, was elected board chair; Susan Goldsmith of Longmeadow, president of Marcus Printing, was elected vice chair; Meghan Parnell-Gregoire of Holyoke, vice president/business lending center manager for PeoplesBank, was elected treasurer; and John McAndrew of Holyoke, financial advisor for Edward Jones, was elected secretary.

The HCC Foundation, a 501(c)(3) charitable corporation, exists to support and promote the mission of Holyoke Community College; to secure, invest and steward financial and other resources for HCC; and to enhance the quality of education and expand educational opportunities for HCC students.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In mid-January, Chicopee resident Bob Pandoli rescued Maxwell Edison, a stray cat. In the months that would follow, Maxwell became one of the city's favorite pets and the subject of a Facebook page that garnered well over 1,000 followers. *PHOTOS BY BOB PANDOLI*

Pandoli. "I live on a corner on the second floor and have a pretty good vantage point of three or four blocks. I happened to look out the window, and there was this cat walking down the sidewalk on a sheet of ice. He was limping, he was shaking and he seemed disoriented."

Pandoli, a lifelong cat lover, couldn't stand the sight. That evening, Pandoli bought the animal cat food, which he placed besides a tree about 50 yards from his house.

The next morning, the food was gone. Pandoli wondered if it had been eaten by the cat; his question was answered several days later.

"I continued putting food in the bowl at night, and he was eating every night. I moved it from the tree towards my back porch about a foot-and-a-half everyday. Probably, a week into it, I saw that it was the cat that I had seen," said Pandoli, who eventually lured the cat to his porch.

Pandoli attempted to locate the cat's owner by posting on heavily-trafficked Facebook pages such as the "Massachusetts Lost Pet Locator Public Group" and "Chicopee Area Community Forum."

Slowly, the two formed a bond. Pandoli named the cat "Maxwell Edison" and created a Facebook page, "The Journey of Maxwell Edison," to post his growth. Maxwell became a citywide sensation overnight; the page now has over 1,000 followers.

"The cool thing about it is that there's hundreds of people who are sharing stories that they've had with feral cats that they've taken in. I've gotten a lot of tips and taken a lot of advice from people who are sharing interest in Maxwell's journey. There are a lot of people out there who really care for cats. It's pretty amazing," said Pandoli.

[L to R] On the evening of Sat. Feb. 22, Caitlin Mogilka, Meghan Kalbaugh, Grand Colleen Ava Baron, Sophie Warren and Karoline Klaus were named to the Chicopee Colleen Court.

Eighteen contestants compete in 2020 Colleen Pageant

When the opportunity of a lifetime presented itself to 18 contestants during the 2020 Chicopee Colleen Pageant, five young women took full advantage of the moment. A longtime tradition was renewed on Feb. 22 at the Castle of Knights as a new Colleen was crowned.

Hundreds of spectators attended last weekend's Coronation Ball, which was organized by the Chicopee St. Patrick's Parade Committee. Each participant competed for a chance to join the Chicopee St. Patrick Day Parade Committee's Colleen Court.

Among them was 18-year-old Ava Baron, a senior at Chicopee Comprehensive High School. After three long hours, Baron was named as the 2020 Colleen.

"I'm absolutely stunned; I wasn't expecting this at all. It was obviously something that I'd hoped for, but to hear my name announced was a dream come true. It's something that I'll never forget," said Baron, overcome with emotion.

Theory, now reality: Theory Wellness opens to the public

Theory Wellness, Chicopee's second recreational marijuana dispensary, opened its doors to the public on Leap Day. In addition to creating 50 jobs, the cannabis retail location is expected to generate more than $500,000 in tax revenue for the city each year.

From left Marketing Director Thomas Winstanley, CEO Brandon Pollock, Field Operations Manager Sam Haber and Scot Lee, vice president of store operations, pose for a photo minutes before the Theory Wellness recreational marijuana retail location opened its doors on Feb. 29.

"In our view, cannabis is going to be used by adults one way or another so it should be through a safe, regulated source that provides economic benefits," said Theory Wellness CEO Brandon Pollock.

In the spring of 2018, Theory Wellness launched a plan to establish a medical and recreational marijuana retail facility in Chicopee. Pollock attended a number of Planning Board meetings and credited the city for being an "early adopter" of a favorable zoning ordinance and permitting process.

Theory Wellness opened its first recreational marijuana facility in Great Barrington in Jan. 2019. Thomas Winstanley, Director of Marketing, noted that the business attracted over 200,000 customers in its first year.

"We learned so much about our business and the industry, and this retail location is really a culmination of a lot of those learning experiences," said Winstanley. "What we really wanted to is, from the ground up, create a space that we know will work to the needs of our company."

80,0000 bees removed from one of city's oldest churches

The First Congregational Church of Chicopee is the city's oldest congregation; its rich tradition dates back to 1751, and its current place of worship on Chicopee Street opened in 1852.

More history was written earlier this month when 80,000 honey bees were removed from a church pillar. The sweet sensation was unlike any that the congregation had experienced before.

[L to R] First Congregational Church of Chicopee supporter Paul Parks watches on as Nate Sperry, Vice President of the Hampden County Beekeepers Association, holds a piece of a beehive removed from the Church in July 2020.

In July 2020, approximately 80,000 bees were removed from the First Congregational Church on Chicopee St.

"They've been here for several years but were becoming a problem, and we are getting ready to refurbish the church. We were able to get a guy to come in and remove the hives for us," said Pastor Gary Grimes, who called on Nate Sperry to complete the task.

Sperry, a beekeeper who serves as vice president of the Hampden County Beekeepers Association, removed multiple hives from a pillar in front of the church. Grimes estimated that the highest hive was located nearly 75-feet above the

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Chicopee Register and
The Holyoke Sun
Happy Holidays!
Happy New Year!
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Happy Holidays from the Chicopee Register

This year, when the holidays will look different for so many folks compared with, say, any other holiday season in the last several decades, it seems especially important to spread holiday cheer whenever possible. Whether you celebrate Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, the solstice or any other winter holiday, we wish you and your loved ones all the best this season.

As the year winds down with our annual Year in Review edition of the Register and we reflect on all that's happened in 2020, we're looking forward to 2021 and brighter days ahead.

Wishing everyone a safe and happy holiday season!

Elise Linscott, Editor

EDITORIAL

Yes, Virginia.

There is a Santa Claus!

No one could have realized it back in 1897, but that's when the New York Sun published what was to become an iconic part of local journalism history. The Sun printed what is now the most widely read letter to a newspaper. It was sent by an 8-year-old New York City girl named Virginia O'Hanlon. The response to her letter by editorial writer Francis Pharcellus Church is a message of love, magic and hope. Considering this past year, we imagine many readers could use a generous serving of that next to a plate of Christmas cookies. So, here is the full text of that historic letter:

Dear Editor,

I am 8 years old.
Some of my little friends say there is no Santa Claus.
Papa says, "If you see it in The Sun, it's so."
Please tell me the truth, is there a Santa Claus?

Virginia O'Hanlon

Virginia, your little friends are wrong.

They have been affected by the skepticism of a skeptical age. They do not believe except they see. They think that nothing can be which is not comprehensible by their little minds. All minds, Virginia, whether they be men's or children's, are little. In this great universe of ours man is a mere insect, an ant, in his intellect, as compared with the boundless world about him, as measured by the intelligence capable of grasping the whole truth and knowledge.

Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus. He exists as certainly as love and generosity and devotion exist, and you know that they abound and give to your life its highest beauty and joy. Alas! How dreary would be the world if there were no Santa Claus! It would be as dreary as if there were no Virginias. There would be no childlike faith then, no poetry, no romance to make tolerable this existence. We should have no enjoyment, except in sense and sight. The eternal light with which childhood fills the world would be extinguished.

Not believe in Santa Claus! You might as well not believe in fairies! You might get your papa to hire men to watch in all the chimneys on Christmas Eve to catch Santa Claus, but even if they did not see Santa Claus coming down, what would that prove? Nobody sees Santa Claus, but that is no sign that there is no Santa Claus. The most real things in the world are those that neither children nor men can see. Did you ever see fairies dancing on the lawn? Of course not, but that's no proof that they are not there. Nobody can conceive or imagine all the wonders there are unseen and unseeable in the world.

You tear apart the baby's rattle and see what makes the noise inside, but there is a veil covering the unseen world which not the strongest man, nor even the united strength of all the strongest men that ever lived, could tear apart. Only faith, fancy, poetry, love, romance can push aside that curtain and view and picture the supernal beauty and glory beyond. Is it all real? Ah, Virginia, in all this world there is nothing else real and abiding.

No Santa Claus! Thank God he lives and he lives forever. A thousand years from now, Virginia, nay 10 times 10 thousand years from now, he will continue to make glad the heart of childhood.

GUEST COLUMN

Americans advised to stay home to be safe this holiday season

By Marcel Gemme

As the numbers start to come in after Thanksgiving, things are not looking good. The United States has averaged nearly 200,000 new confirmed COVID-19 cases a day over the last week. But according to Dr. Anthony Fauci, this isn't even the beginning of the full impact we're expected to see from the celebration of the most recent holiday.

The real numbers are expected to start pouring in soon, and December is shaping up to be the worst month so far for COVID-19 deaths and hospitalizations. The biggest victims? America's vulnerable senior population.

Health experts have long warned that the holiday season would bring a spike in coronavirus cases as people increasingly gather indoors. The CDC preemptively issued an online guide to safely celebrating the Holidays, with pages specific to upcoming celebrations. Right now, their "Winter Holidays" page appears to cover both Christmas and New Year's Celebrations.

The first thing that's being suggested is to stay home. Travel increases risk, so it is being advised against. And since it's looking like Americans collectively blew off suggested precautions over Thanksgiving, health experts are doubling down.

The Mayo Clinic has posted it's own COVID-19 holiday guide online, taking what appears to be a slightly less aggressive approach. Their main suggestions are geared towards how to best safely celebrate should you choose to do so, and things to consider when making this decision.

Since this issue is so sensitive and vital, major businesses have either elected or asked to help curb the virus's spread.

Those that aren't promoting and engaging in safe practices are finding themselves in hot water rapidly. Lives are at stake. For example, Airbnb recently announced its New Year's Eve Plan to Protect Public Health. Their first step will be to restrict specific booking requests that they view to be "suspicious" or indicate someone planning a party. These will mostly be last-minute, one or two night stays booked over New Year's Eve by guests that don't have an established, positive review history on their platform.

Next, the guests must attest that they will not throw an unauthorized party, or they may be pursued legally by Airbnb. Finally, the company will be operating a virtual command center to get ahead of any issues, along with trained safety agents on call throughout New Year's Eve.

In case you haven't gotten the message yet, this virus is not a joke. Things are getting worse, and people are not following what's needed to curb the spread. It's understandable that in this atmosphere, governmental instructions aren't heeded. But when health experts and private companies need to hold us accountable, and we still don't listen, we're in trouble.

Thankfully, many preparations are underway to avoid a complete catastrophe. The New York City ball drop celebration has been all but canceled. There will still be a ball drop, but it will be broadcast virtually with no public attendance allowed. Compared to the previous year, the celebration will be desolate. Police will block off Time Square on New Year's Eve. But while canceling major events like this is an excellent first step towards getting things under control, more needs to be done.

We can keep trying to police everyone and get them to do the right thing, but it's not a very successful approach. In Oregon, Governor Kate Brown issued a "freeze" order before Thanksgiving, limiting bars and restaurants to takeout-only. In response, The Oregon Restaurant & Lodging Association and the Restaurant Law Center filed a lawsuit claiming the executive order was discriminatory.

Conflicts like these have frequently been politically fueled, leading to a lack of understanding. But for understanding to happen, there must first be a willingness. And while many believe they already know everything there is to know about COVID-19, perhaps the only thing not grasped is its reality.

It doesn't have to happen to you for it to be real. It's not a conspiracy. Hospitals across the nation are filled with dying COVID-19 patients. Many of them are seniors who are family members and loved ones of people that weren't cautious. Let's start the New Year off right by not spreading disease.

Marcel Gemme has dedicated his life to helping others find help. He focuses his attention on helping individuals find long-term Senior Care through his journalism, community outreach, and his website, ECDOL.org. Excellent Care, Decency, and Optimal Living are what he aims to bring to individuals looking for care options for themselves or their aging loved ones.

WE CARE ABOUT YOUR NEWS!

The Chicopee Register welcomes submissions of news in or related to Chicopee and its residents. Our "People News," is filled with submitted engagement announcements, wedding announcements, birth announcements, your new baby or news about your 25th or 50th anniversary celebrations. Please e-mail correspondence along with a photo to chicopeeregister@turley.com or send it to: Chicopee Register, c/o Turley Publications, 24 Water Street, Palmer, MA 01069.

Chicopee Register

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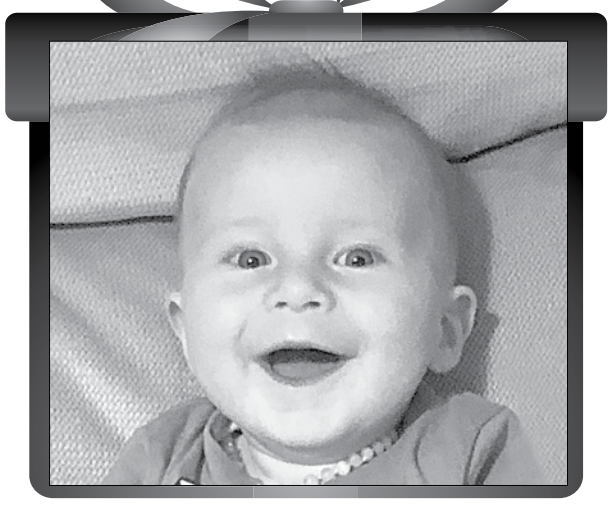
Baby's First Christmas 2020



Benson William Hart

March 7, 2020

Parents: Greg and Nikki Hart, Chicopee
Grandparents: William and Deb Godek, Chicopee
David and Kathleen Hart, Holyoke

Francesca Maria Ferrentino

July 18, 2020

Parents: Frankie and Marissa Ferrentino, Longmeadow
Grandparents: João and Maria Dos Santos, Ludlow
Francesco and Angelina Ferrentino, Longmeadow
Great-Grandparents: Noemia Rosa Tereso, Ludlow
Mattea Maria Gisolfi, Longmeadow

Max Richard Nichols

May 3, 2020

Parents: Dana Shults & Brett Nichols, Wilbraham
Grandparents: Rick Shults, Wilbraham and Cindy Shults,Hampden
Clint and Christine Nichols, Chicopee

Addison Glenna Brownell

June 5, 2020

Parents: Alex and Casey Brownell, Malden
Grandparents: Mark and Chris Brownell, Belchertown
Blayne and Carrie Hartman, Solana Beach, CA
Sheri Hartman, Oklahoma City, OK

Kai West

June 5, 2020

Parents: Tiffany Lemke and Kameron West, Chicopee
Grandparents: Diane Lemke, Chicopee, Luis Martinez, Springfield
David Street and Pamela West, Monson

2020 from page 3

ground.

"He got the bees pretty angry. They were buzzing around and everything. It was a tedious job; it took him about six-and-a-half hours to remove them," said Grimes.

The congregation contemplated hiring an exterminator, but community contributions enabled Sperry's hiring. Local and regional newscasts covered the fundraising campaign, and donations arrived from as far away as Cape Cod.

Chicopee Comp Holds emotional car parade for seniors

May 12 quickly became a day to remember for the entirety of Chicopee Comprehensive High School's Class of 2020. An emotional car parade culminated as seniors received yearbooks, caps, gowns and a rare opportunity to celebrate together.

"I can't tell you how happy those kids were and how big those smiles were on their faces. Today was huge for them," said Joe Morissette, Asst. Principal at Comp. "The seniors have set an unbelievable standard of how to handle diversity. They've adjusted on the fly, and other students moving forward can learn from them that no matter what life throws at you, you have to adapt."

The Class of 2020 overcame challenges far different than those that had previously been encountered by any senior class at Comp. A jubilant atmosphere arose as a

[L to R] Chicopee Comprehensive High School seniors Julianna Beaulieu, Lily Cushing, Kim Harrington, Kayleigh Dion, Bella Demosthenous and Taryn Langlois celebrate their graduation after receiving their diplomas during a May 2020 parade.

hundreds of students partook in last Tuesday's festivity.

"I'm stoked; I'm having the best time of my life," said Kayleigh Dion, a senior. "We haven't seen each other in so long. After everything that's happened, this is the most amazing experience for us to have. I can't thank anyone enough for putting this together."

See 2020 page 8

HAPPY HOLIDAYS
from the
CHICOPEE REGISTER
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NEWS & FEATURES

As a paper of record, we attempt to cover all general news, personality profiles, and community features that we know about. This includes all selectmen and school committee meetings as well as spot planning board, board of health, finance, and other town meetings determined by the issue's relevance to our readers. There are the annual major community event features that we should always cover, but we are more than open to suggestions of other features to celebrate the fabric of our communities and their many interesting occupants. Our loyal advertisers provide funding for this paid staff coverage.

For more information on news or community features for The Chicopee Register, please email chicopeeregister@turley.com.

A TURLEY PUBLICATION
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Sen. Eric Lesser launches Lunchtime with Lesser podcast

Episodes available now

Senator Eric P. Lesser has announced the launch of Lunchtime with Lesser, a new podcast version of his weekly "Lunchtime Livestream" updated and formatted for easy, on-demand listening. Lunchtime with Lesser is a series of conversations held by Sen. Lesser with community leaders and experts that are working on important issues touching Western Massachusetts, covering everything from East-West Rail to the COVID-19 pandemic.

In April, Senator Lesser began his weekly "Lunchtime Livestream" with his first guest, Dr. Eric Feigl-Ding during the height of the first wave of the pandemic. He has since hosted over 30 guests from nonprofit, food access, public health, manufacturing, education, environmental, social services, mental health, tourism, and social justice sectors.

Listen to Lunchtime with Lesser on Apple Podcasts, Spotify, PodBean, and wherever podcasts are available.

NOTICE

ERRORS: Each advertiser is requested to check their advertisement the first time it appears. This paper will not be responsible for more than one corrected insertion, nor will be liable for any error in an advertisement to a greater extent than the cost of the space occupied by the item in the advertisement.

COVID from page 1

I now dedicate most of each day to the impact COVID -19 is having on our residents, services and our businesses."

With cases rising, a myriad of new mandates implemented and a stay-at-home order in effect, the first-term mayor assumed responsibilities that were foreign to any previous official who's held office in Chicopee over the last several decades.

On April 24, the Chicopee Department of Health mandated that residents wear face-coverings before entering any of the city's essential businesses. Shortly after the edict was issued, Vieau encouraged residents to remain safe and help protect each other.

"We understand that people may doubt the need to wear a mask if a loved one has not contracted the virus or they do not know someone who passed away from contracting the virus. While wearing a mask cannot protect you completely from contracting this virus, it does aid in preventing the spread of the disease as we manage the surge of infections," said Vieau.

During March and April, a tremendous emphasis was placed on curbing the spread of COVID-19. By May and June, the widespread community effort began to pay off – at least, temporarily.

As case counts steadied and hospitals became better suited to meet the unprecedented demands brought on by the pandemic, dozens of businesses reopened for business. Restaurants welcomed customers again – first outdoors on June 8 and then indoors, at a limited capacity, on June 22.

Just as business owners adjusted to newly-implemented safe practices, residents delved into new means of interaction, such as car parades and Zoom sessions. During a June interview, Vieau expressed his admiration for the city's ability to carry on, despite the challenges posed by the virus.

"The pandemic has brought us together to find new ways to talk to each other as we overcome difficulties and make the best of the situation. I am proud of the citizens of Chicopee and our employees for their creativity, caring, sharing and understanding," said Vieau.

For several weeks this summer, case counts plateaued, and residents enjoyed many of the activities were implausible early in the spring during the statewide lockdown.

The Mayor's Office took no breaks, knowing that COVID-19 would continue to endanger residents for months to come. On July 30, Vieau announced a $250,000 rental assistance program for city residents.

"This program is for renters who cannot afford to pay their rent due to circumstances related to the COVID-19 pandemic," Vieau said. "The city felt it was worth the effort if we can support small landlords, as well as tenants who have had income reductions due to the pandemic."

When the dog days of summer passed, the threat of COVID-19 became apparent once more. The unpredictable nature of the virus revealed, and case counts began to rise – a worsening trend that continues to this day.

As temperatures cooled, COVID-19 numbers spiked in a manner that had not been observed since the spring. Between Oct. 1-9, five members of the Chicopee Police Department tested positive for the virus.

By the time the first frost of the season arrived, COVID-19 began to peak in the city. Chicopee entered the red/high risk category, which is the state's most severe designation on its map of communities. Vieau addressed his constituents about the rising cases and need for more precautions on Oct. 22.

"What's happened is people are moving from the outdoor locations, which are cooler, and coming inside," he said. "They're being complacent. The recommendation now is that if you're having people in your home, please practice social distancing and wear a mask when you can. Wash, sanitize and, please, if you don't feel well, stay home."

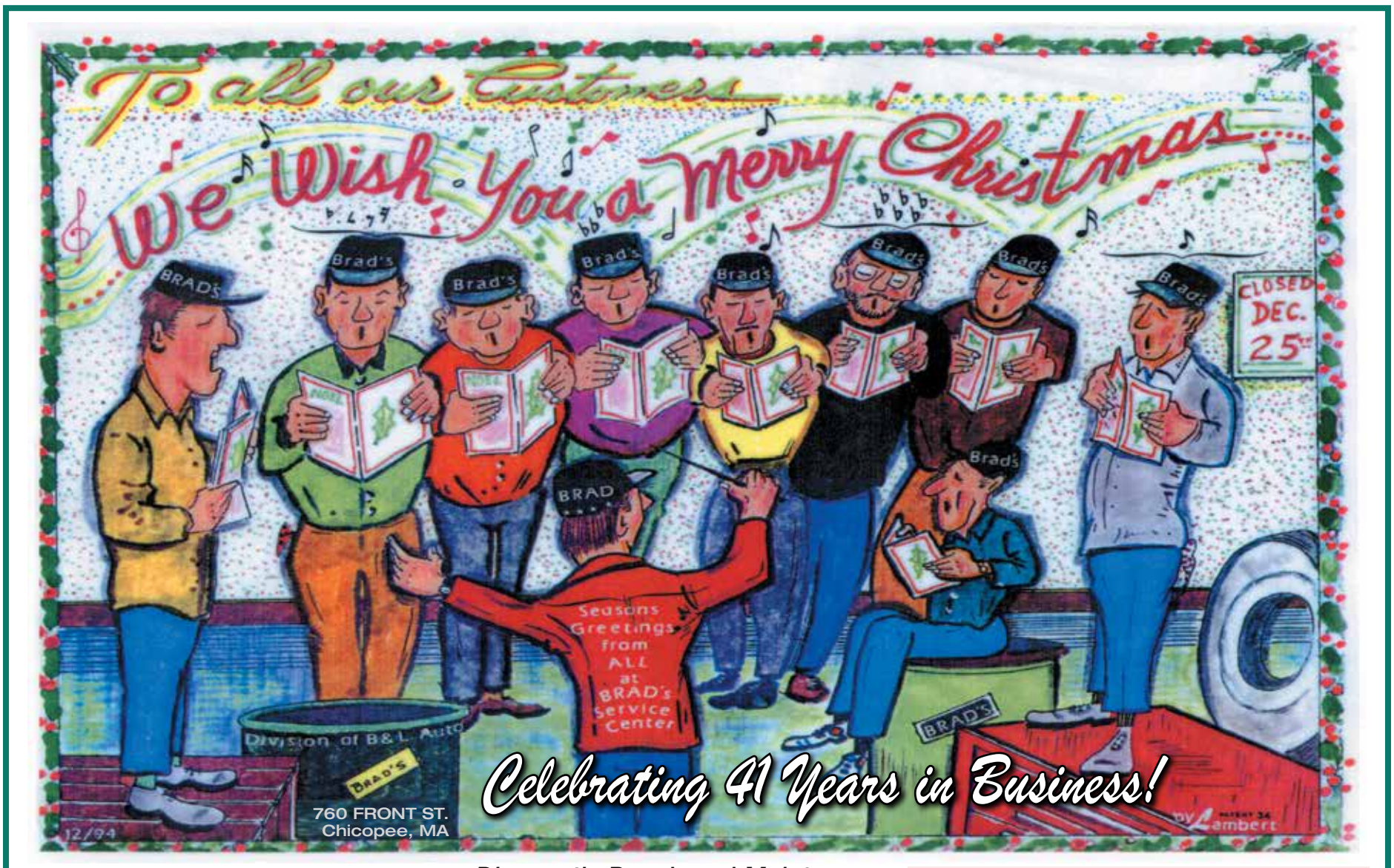
Meanwhile, the Nov. 3 election were not halted by the pandemic. With the assistance of mail-in ballots, a record number of Chicopee residents voted; 66% of eligible voters, to be exact.

As November proceeded, Chicopee's positive case counts reached an all-time high.

"Here in the City of Chicopee, I can let you know that right now, we have the most cases that we've ever had," said Vieau on Nov. 17.

While the pandemic's severity has yet to lessen in December, several new developments have unfolded over the course of the past month. A testing site has been established at Chicopee Comprehensive High School, and COVID-19 vaccines have reached Chicopee and will likely be accessible to all residents within the next five months.

"Vaccines will be distributed to the front-liners first. Next would come our first responders," said Vieau earlier this month. "There's contracts with Walgreens and CVS. There will be hopefully be municipal vaccine sites available. We're doing everything we can to prepare. The hospitals are preparing with freezing mechanisms to keep things cold; they're using dry ice. They're waiting for approval."



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COMMUNITY

Soccer changes affected approach to game

FILE PHOTOS

Girls soccer adjusted to the modified rules of soccer, which included no throw-ins and goalies could not punt over the half line.

Boys soccer had to do without head balls, a big part of the attack game.

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

REGION—The MIAA made several rule changes to the sport of soccer this past fall due to COVID-19.

It took a couple of matches for the players, coaches, and referees to get used to the new modified rules.

"It did take some time for the players to get used to the new rules. We're hoping to go back to soccer without modifications next year," said Monson girls' varsity soccer coach Eric Degnan. "The players deserve a lot of credit. You also have to give the referees a lot of credit as well. It wasn't very easy for them either."

Granby girls varsity soccer coach Robert Weaver was happy his players had the opportunity to play some matches this fall.

"The girls were very happy just to be getting together, practicing and playing soccer while following the modifications," Weaver said. "At Granby, we had great backing from the school's administration, school committee, and health department."

One of the rule changes was the elimination of throw-ins. When the ball crossed the touchline, the restart was a kick-in, which was the same as an indirect kick. The ball was placed on the spot on the touchline where the ball went out of bounds or behind it.

Ludlow boys' varsity soccer coach Greg Kolodziey really didn't mind the elimination of throw-ins.

"We have benefitted over the years from having a player who could throw it far," Kolodziey said. "You could create more scoring chances on more restarts with the kick-in."

There were also no head balls allowed.

"I think the rule change that affected the game the most was elimination of head balls. I've never seen so many well-executed shoulder balls in my life," Kolodziey added. "But there were a lot of good scoring chances missed by all the teams due to not being allowed to head the ball."

Players were not allowed to make intentional physical contact with an opposing player.

"We always stress the importance of not committing reckless and needless fouls," Kolodziey said. "If the health situation is under control, I do think all the modified rules will be changed back next season."

Goalkeepers weren't allowed to kick, punt dropkick, or throw the ball in the air beyond the midfield line.

If the ball did travel in the air beyond the midfield line without touching a player, the resulting restart was an indirect kick for the opposing team from the spot it crossed midfield. "I strongly disliked the rule where the goalie could not punt, or goal kick the ball over half," said Ware boys varsity soccer coach Jesse Trzpit "To me, it didn't make a lot of sense to begin with, I didn't see how it benefitted anyone's safety and it also took a large advantage away from our team. Our starting goalie consistently kicks the ball over half which gives us an opportunity to move the ball up field more so than other ways. Our backup goalie also has the ability to do this."

All of the high school soccer matches were played in four ten-minute quarters instead of two twenty minutes halves.

A couple of the other rule changes were corner kicks were indirect kicks, no timeouts will be allowed, and there were no rebounds allowed on penalty kicks. Coaches, players and referees wore masks during the game.

Everyone is hoping to have a normal high school soccer season in the fall of 2021.

COMMUNITY

Several unknowns for winter sports season

By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

REGION – In Western Massachusetts, winter sports are scheduled to begin in early January, but that is pending the creation of a new schedule and the Pioneer Valley Interscholastic Athletic Conference forming geographic "bubble" leagues for basketball and hockey, as well as swimming.

In November, the PVIAC agreed to go ahead with winter sports, but made a number of rulings:

• Compete in a bubble that will limit contact with fewer athletes (schools).

• Start date for winter sports January 4, 2021 through February 20, 2021

• The scheduled amount of games will be: Team sports (Basketball, Swimming, Ice Hockey) 10-12 Skiing 5-6 contest

• No independent varsity contests, only those given by schedulers.

• Spectators for Indoor Games TBD.

• Out of season coaching: There will be no out of season coaching during the Winter Season

• Strongly recommend no captains practices.

With the recent rollout of a vaccine as well as a second one now in the pipeline that could accelerate the vaccination process, it is unclear if decisions made about fans will be revisited at some point.

Please see **WINTER**, page 9

AUTO RACING

Claremont to host Granite Pro Stock Series

WALPOLE, N.H. -- Granite State Pro Stock Series officials announced on Thursday a 15-race schedule for the 2021 race season. The slate will bring drivers to three different New England states -- while visiting eight different tracks in one of the most complete schedules the series has ever offered for teams and fans.

The calendar is headlined by the annual Newport Chevrolet 150 at Claremont Motorsports Park, this time on Saturday, July 31 -- a $10,000 to win show that is sure to draw the top Super Late Model talent in the region. The series will also make a debut at one of New England's most historic tracks and return to multiple staple facilities, with a mix of flat and banked tracks planned.

"We're thrilled with the way our schedule came together for the 2021 season," Mike Parks, president of the Granite State Pro Stock Series, said. "We always strive to get 14-16 races and we were able to accomplish it again. We think our competitors and fans will enjoy it."

The season starts with the big debut in Connecticut. Granite State teams will compete at Stafford Motor Speedway for the first time as part of the annual NAPA Spring Sizzler weekend on Saturday, April 24 -- a one-day show. Pro Stocks are no stranger to the Arute-owned facility -- having run as a weekly division for decades -- but now, the touring stars will invade to compete with some of the local talent that are sure to find themselves a ride.

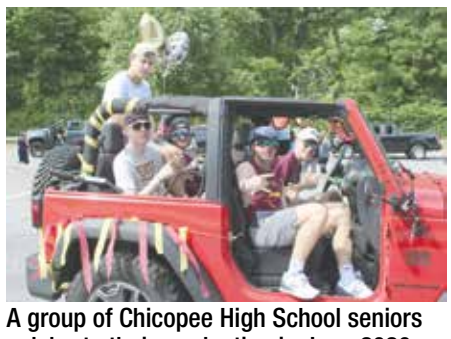
"To say we are thrilled to finally bring the Granite State Pro Stock Series to Stafford would be an understatement," Parks said. "This will be the icing on the cake to kick-off the Greatest Race in the History of the Spring, the annual NAPA Spring Sizzler. It's going to be an amazing event for our series and the track both."

Following Stafford, just one week later, Monadnock Speedway will host their first of two series events on Sunday afternoon, May 2 as part of their season-opening Spring Dash weekend. Post-time for this event is 2 p.m., with the NHSTRA Modifieds, NELCAR Legends and more also on the card. A second stop at "Mad Dog" is slated for Saturday, September 4 as part of Labor Day weekend at the Winchester, New Hampshire, oval.

The series heads to Bobby Webber's Star Speedway for the first of two stops on Saturday night, May 8, before a return to the Star Classic weekend on Friday, September 17 comes in

Please see **RACING**, page 9

2020 from page 5



A group of Chicopee High School seniors celebrate their graduation in June 2020.
Photo by Tyler Witkop

Setting the pace for a special class of Pacers

June 4 was a special day for a special class. After overcoming a series of setbacks that would have discouraged and deterred many, the Chicopee High School Class of 2020 paraded through the city on an afternoon to remember.

"It's kind of overwhelming because I forgot how many people we really are as a class. It's exciting because I didn't think that I would see a lot of these people again so it's kind of just my last chance to really get a glimpse at what the Chicopee High School Class of 2020 looks like," said Ashley Chimelis, valedictorian.

Chicopee High School's graduation ceremony was unique in nature, as the COVID-19 pandemic forced

the institution to stray from tradition. Nonetheless, it wound up being every bit as memorable as any other year-end celebration that proceeded it.

On the first Thursday of the month, the Class of 2020 gathered in the high school parking lot in preparation for a car parade that made its way down Front Street, circled around Chicopee Center and continued through Szot Park before returning to the high school.

Chicopee Academy celebrates its 'Fantastic Four'

During its June 4 virtual graduation ceremony, Chicopee Academy lauded its fantastic four. Isaiah Rivera, Geo Basile, Makiah Green and Nicolaas Green are the institution's Class of 2020.

"We're a big family at Chicopee Academy. All of the students and staff show love to each other. I want to thank all of my teachers and all of the staff for always encouraging me and helping me. It's been incredible," said Rivera.

Rivera earned the Principal's Award, given by Principal John Leonard to "an extraordinary senior who demonstrates determination, good character and leadership. This student is an asset to our school serving as a role model for other students."

Black Lives Matter: A movement for equality

"All lives cannot matter until Black Lives Matter," was the theme of the June 8 march on the Public Safety Complex. Hundreds of men and women of all races, ages and backgrounds stood together last Saturday, declaring that Chicopee will never again tolerate racism.

Advocating for equality, the crowd embarked from Szot Park on Front Street, marched down Grove Street and advanced to the headquarters of the Chicopee Police Department on Church Street. The group passionately chanted at the outnumbered officers surrounding the

A group of passionate protesters take a knee outside of the Chicopee Police Dept. on June 10 in memory of the slain George Floyd.

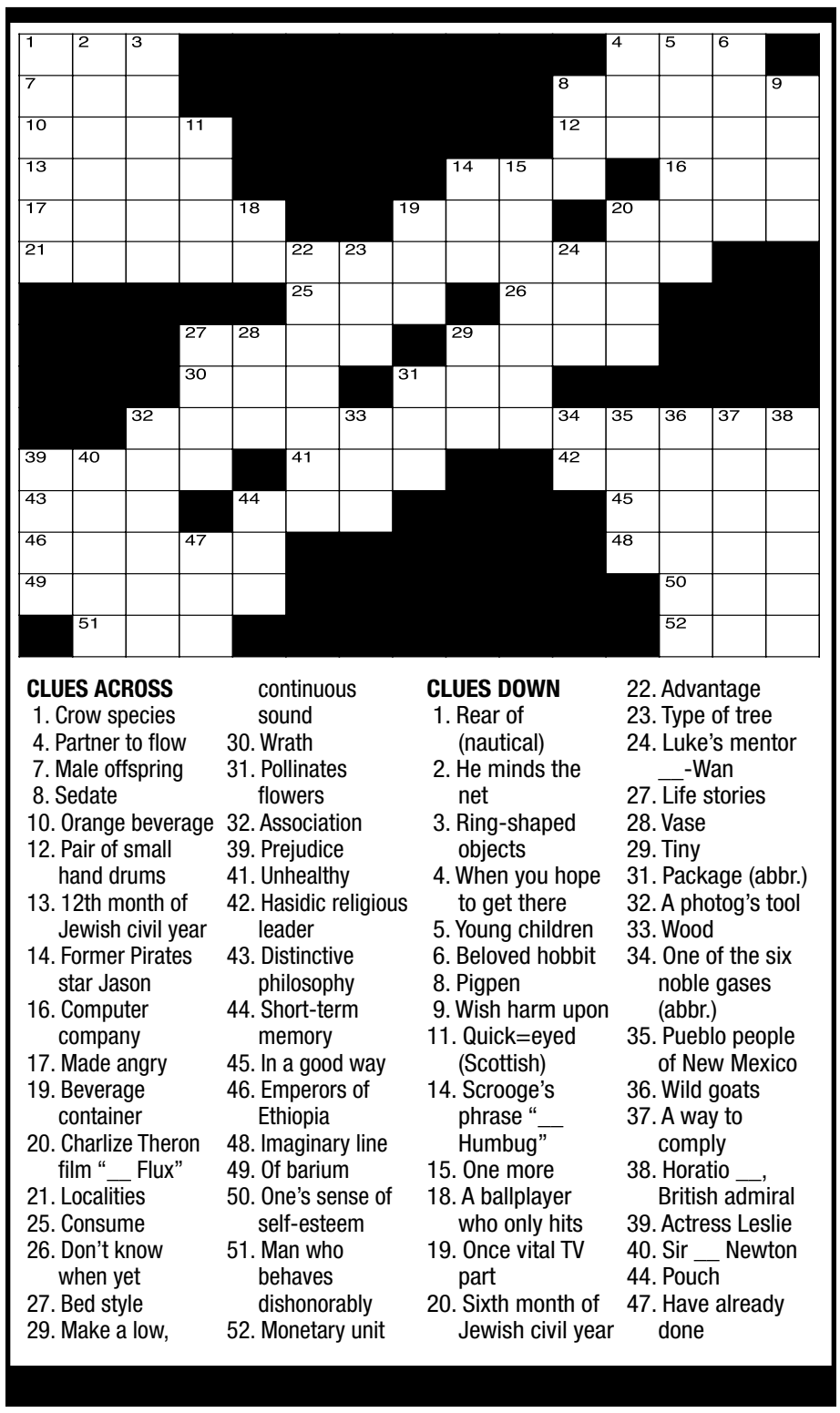
Johnny Miranda, Chair of the Chicopee Cultural Council, speaks at a protest outside of the Chicopee Police Dept. on June 10.

building, demanding that all residents be treated fairly, regardless of skin color.

"It's important to make people uncomfortable so that they can then question themselves and determine whether they are on the right side of history or if they need a little bit more education. This is systemic; every institution has been plagued by racism. Sometimes it's very evident and sometimes it's very subtle, but it's always present," said Johnny Miranda, President of the Chicopee Cultural Council.

The protest was one of many that have occurred in the Unites States follow-

See 2020 page 11



CLUES ACROSS
1. Crow species
4. Partner to flow
7. Male offspring
8. Sedate
10. Orange beverage
12. Pair of small hand drums
13. 12th month of Jewish civil year
14. Former Pirates star Jason
16. Computer company
17. Made angry
19. Beverage container
20. Charlize Theron film "__ Flux"
21. Localities
25. Consume
26. Don't know when yet
27. Bed style
29. Make a low, continuous sound
30. Wrath
31. Pollinates flowers
32. Association
39. Prejudice
41. Unhealthy
42. Hasidic religious leader
43. Distinctive philosophy
44. Short-term memory
45. In a good way
46. Emperors of Ethiopia
48. Imaginary line
49. Of barium
50. One's sense of self-esteem
51. Man who behaves dishonorably
52. Monetary unit

CLUES DOWN
1. Rear of (nautical)
2. He minds the net
3. Ring-shaped objects
4. When you hope to get there
5. Young children
6. Beloved hobbit
8. Pigpen
9. Wish harm upon
11. Quick=eyed (Scottish)
14. Scrooge's phrase "__ Humbug"
15. One more
18. A ballplayer who only hits
19. Once vital TV part
20. Sixth month of Jewish civil year
22. Advantage
23. Type of tree
24. Luke's mentor __-Wan
27. Life stories
28. Vase
29. Tiny
31. Package (abbr.)
32. A photog's tool
33. Wood
34. One of the six noble gases (abbr.)
35. Pueblo people of New Mexico
36. Wild goats
37. A way to comply
38. Horatio __, British admiral
39. Actress Leslie
40. Sir __ Newton
44. Pouch
47. Have already done

HISTORICAL from page 1

Another decision that must be made is what schools will be participating in the winter season.

Changes that have already been made for the season include the addition of Southwick to the winter ranks. Southwick's school committee did not allow the school to participate in the fall season, but has agreed to support the winter season. Southwick has boys and girls basketball as well as ice hockey.

Belchertown, while it will allow swimming and basketball, hockey is not being allowed due to the fact the UMass practice rink, their home ice, is not available. Belchertown's school committee confirmed other options for Belchertown would be in communities that currently in the red status for being labeled "high-risk" for COVID-19 spread. Belchertown is one of the towns not allowed to play other schools that have the red designation.

Holyoke High School, which ceased its fall season on Oct. 21, is set to participate in the winter season with basketball and swimming, but can only do so if it gets out of the red by Dec. 24 and remains out of the red until the season starts in January. It is possible the school will start late.

Other changes and decisions are still pending, though many schools have already opted to participate.

Pathfinder will participate in winter sports, but must find another venue due to the fact their gymnasium is currently being used as a cafeteria.

While the PVIAC has not made an official ruling on whether fans will be allowed in arenas, the MIAA's current guidance is to allow up to 40 percent of a gymnasium's capacity. However, the number of game participants (players, coaches, officials, etc.) count toward that 40 percent. Some schools, like the fall, could bar fans altogether in an effort to lower the spread while the current surge is still on.

HISTORICAL from page 1

the thick of the championship battle. Last year, Derek Griffith and Joey Pole put together one of the best races in series history as part of the Classic at Star, which has become a staple track for the series.

Claremont Motorsports Park hosts their first of three dates on Memorial Day weekend as a Sunday evening special, May 30. Following the $10,000 to win Newport Chevrolet 150 in July, an event won by Derek Griffith last year, the champion will be crowned at Claremont for the first time on October 16 as part of the track's Fall Challenge weekend.

Beech Ridge Motor Speedway in Maine will hold two Granite State events for the first time in track history -- with stops set for June 12 and August 14. Last year, the series hosted more than 30 cars as a mix of regulars and track favorites competed for glory in the inaugural stop at Beech Ridge -- a race won by Wyatt Alexander.

"We had so much success with our first appearance at Beech Ridge last year, the car count was fantastic and Andy and the staff there welcomed us and our teams for a great event," Parks said. "Going there twice should give us much of the same we saw in 2020."

Additional summer events include the annual stop at Riverside Speedway in Groveton, New Hampshire, on June 19 and the Sunday afternoon spectacular at Hudson Speedway on Sunday, July 11. Granite State teams will also stop at Lee USA Speedway twice -- both at some of the track's most historic race weekends. The first comes on Friday, July 2, celebrating Independence Day -- and the second will be on Sunday, October 3 as part of the season-ending Octoberfest.

There is one event that remains outstanding on the series schedule -- dated for Saturday, July 24 -- which is on track to be announced soon. Series officials are working on the final details surrounding that event and will announce once available.

The Granite State Pro Stock Series will have further updates surrounding the 2021 season when available. For more information, visit gspss.net and follow the series on social media.

2021 GRANITE STATE PRO STOCK SERIES SCHEDULE:

April 24 -- Stafford Motor Speedway -- Stafford, Conn. -- 75 laps

May 2 -- Monadnock Speedway -- Winchester, N.H. -- 100 laps

May 8 -- Star Speedway -- Epping, N.H. -- 100 laps

May 30 -- Claremont Speedway -- Claremont, N.H. -- 100 laps

June 12 -- Beech Ridge Motor Speedway -- Scarborough, Maine -- 150 laps

June 19 -- Riverside Speedway -- Groveton, N.H. -- 150 laps

July 2 -- Lee USA Speedway -- Lee, N.H. -- 100 laps

July 11 -- Hudson International Speedway -- Hudson, N.H. -- 100 laps

July 24 -- TBA

July 31 -- $10k to Win -- Claremont Motorsports Park -- Claremont, N.H. -- 100 laps

August 14 -- Beech Ridge Motor Speedway -- Scarborough, Maine -- 150 laps

September 4 -- Monadnock Speedway -- Winchester, N.H -- 100 laps

September 17 -- Star Speedway -- Epping, N.H. -- 100 laps

October 3 -- Lee USA Speedway -- Lee, N.H. -- 100 laps

October 16 -- Claremont Motorsports Park -- Claremont, N.H. -- 100 laps

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Hampden Probate and Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
(413)748-7758
Docket No. HD20P2079EA
Estate of:
Alice Mary Archambault
Date of Death: 08/01/2020
CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION

To all interested persons:

A Petition for **Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Dean V Archambault** of Chicopee, MA requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that: **Dean V Archambault** of Chicopee, MA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve on the bond in **an unsupervised** administration.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 01/06/2021**.

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an Affidavit of Objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)

A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.

WITNESS, Hon. **Barbara M Hyland,** First Justice of this Court.

Date: December 09, 2020

Suzanne T. Seguin
Register of Probate

12/25/2020

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Hampden Probate and Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
(413)748-7758
Docket No. HD20P2093EA
Estate of:
Shirley Diane Blain
Also known as:
Diane Shirley Blain,
Shirley D Blain
Date of Death: 10/25/2020
CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION

To all interested persons:

A Petition for **Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Nancy T Roux** of Chicopee, MA requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that: **Nancy T Roux** of Chicopee, MA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in **an unsupervised** administration.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 01/07/2021**.

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an Affidavit of Objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)

A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.

WITNESS, Hon. **Barbara M Hyland,** First Justice of this Court.

Date: December 10, 2020

Suzanne T. Seguin
Register of Probate

12/25/2020

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Hampden Division
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
(413)748-8600
Docket No. HD20P2094EA
Estate of:
Dennis K. Francis
Date of Death:
October 24, 2020
INFORMAL PROBATE PUBLICATION NOTICE

To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by

Petition of Petitioner **Dennis Brady Francis** of West Springfield, MA

Petitioner **Jeffrey Allen Francis** of Springfield, MA

a Will has been admitted to informal probate.

Dennis Brady Francis of West Springfield, MA

Jeffrey Allen Francis of Springfield, MA

has been informally appointed as the Personal Representative of the estate to serve without surety on the bond.

The estate is being administered under informal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but interested parties are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration. Interested parties are entitled to petition the Court to institute formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers of Personal Representatives appointed under informal procedure. A copy of the Petition and Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner.

12/25/2020

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
The Trial Court
PROBATE & FAMILY COURT
DOCKET NO. HD86P0779

To all persons interested in the Estate of Mary Guska, formerly known as Mary Kaput A petition has been presented to said Court by Alice Garczynski of 37 Fisher Road, Chicopee, Massachusetts, praying that said Court ratify and confirm a conveyance of land commonly known as 25 Fisher Road, Chicopee, MA, as described in deed of Alice Garczynski, Executrix of The Estate of Mary Gaska f/k/a Mary Kaput dated April 11, 1987, and recorded in the Hampden County Registry of Deeds in Book 6450, Page 481, all as more fully set forth in said petition.

If you desire to object thereto you or your attorney should file a written appearance in said Court at **Springfield** before ten o'clock in the forenoon on the **March 16,2021**.

Witness, BARBARA M. HYLAND, First Justice of said Court this Sixteenth day of December, 2020.

Suzanne T. Seguin
Register

It is ordered that notice of said proceeding be given by delivering or mailing by certified mail a copy of the foregoing citation to all persons interested sixty days at least before said return day; and, if service be made by certified mail, unless it shall appear that all persons interested have received actual notice, in the CHICOPEE REGISTER, a newspaper published in Chicopee, the publication at least sixty days at least before said return day.

Witness, BARBARA M. HYLAND, First Justice of said Court this sixteenth day of December, 2020.

Suzanne T. Seguin
Register

12/25/2020

SALE OF MOTOR VEHICLES
Under G.L. c.255 Sec. 39A

Notice is hereby given by **Interstate Towing, Inc.** pursuant to the provisions of G.L. c. 255, section 39A, that on **December 25, 2020** at Interstate Towing, Inc the following Motor Vehicles will be sold at private sale to satisfy our garage keeper's lien thereon for storage, towing charges, care and expenses of notices and sale of said vehicles.

1998 Buick Regal
VIN:2G4WB52K0W1495860
David Allen Kanleuven
39 Fairfax St
Somerville, MA 02144

2000 Nissan Maxima
VIN: JN1CA31DY0T524274
Danielle Roberto
13 Ken Ln
Granby, MA 01033

2001 Honda Civic
VIN: 2HGES15561H513309
Zaida Oyolla
162 Walnut Street, 2Nd Floor
Springfield, MA 01105

2001 Toyota Corolla
VIN: 1NXBR12E91Z472118
Angel Matos Perez
755 Worthington St
Springfield, MA 01105

2002 Dodge Dakota
VIN: 1B7HL38X62S700920
Aaron Eli
190 Harvard Dr
Stamford, CT 06902

2003 Honda Accord
VIN: 1HGCM66523A019737
Larhonda F Deveaux
19 Woodway Rd, Apt 28
Stamford, CT 06907

2003 Honda Civic
VIN: 1HGEM21963L020891
Jenemy Martir
46 Coral St Apt 2
Worcester, Ma 01604

2003 Hyundai Elantra
VIN: KMHDN45D73U593063
Roseann Maher
19 Lincoln St Apt 1S
Enfield, CT 06082

2004 Chrysler Pt Cruiser
VIN: 3C4FY58B34T234485
Louis Concepcian
198 Brown Ave
Holyoke, MA 01040

2004 Honda Nss250s
VIN: JH2MF06734K000774
Judy Madore
111 Highridge Rd
Southington, CT 06489

2004 Jeep Liberty
VIN: 1J4GL48K44W271286
Alex Jackson
26 Pacific St
Pittsfield, MA 01201

2004 Volkswagen Passat
VIN: WVWPD63B14E186434
Devin Abdul Qawi Avshalom Smith
231 Starr St
New Haven, CT 06511

2005 Gmc Savana G3500
VIN: 1GDJG31V251906563
El Encanto
905 Summit Ave
Union City, NJ07087

2007 Honda Civic
VIN: 2HGFG12637H549499
Margaret Vineis
732 Broadway, Apt 3
Sommerville, MA 02144

2008 Nissan Altima
VIN: 1N4AL21E98N421544
John Adamczyk
91 Burlington Dr
Feeding Hills, MA 01030

2008 Scion TC
VIN: JTKDE167680249839
Jemeily Castro Figueroa
303 Maple St, Apt 249
Springfield, MA 01105

2008 Toyota Yaris
VIN: JTDJT923085194518
Sherwyn Cooper
625 Thomas Burgin Pkwy, Apt 607
Quincy, MA 02169

2009 Nissan Sentra
VIN: 3N1AB61E39L622655
Benedict Cooper
5 Edgemere Ave
Providence, RI 02909

2010 Acura MDX
VIN: 2HNYD2H21AH513743
Christian Castro-Colon
116 Hancock St
Springfield, MA 01105

2010 Chevrolet Impala
VIN: 2G1WA5EN4A1100187
Haas Inc
6 Boulder Pkwy
North Oxford, MA 01537

2012 Mitsubishi Galant
VIN: 4A32B2FF3CE019351
Derek Mccarthy
5R Smith St
Rockport, MA 01966

2012 Tao Tao
VIN: L9NTCBAE6J1012337
Unknown

2013 Chrysler 200LX
VIN: 1C3CCBAB8DN735905
Daniel Delisle
1847 Glasgo Rd
Jewett City, CT06351

2013 Nissan Pathfinder
VIN: 5N1AR2MM4DC614228
Thomas Cleary
Po Box 657
Castleton, VT 05735

2017 Victory Octane
VIN: 5VPFTB006H3001808
Carlos Lopez
145 Florence St
Springfield, MA 01105

12/11, 12/18, 12/25/2020

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Hampden Probate and Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
(413)748-7758
Docket No. HD20C0187CA
In the matter of:
Mirian Jusino
CITATION ON PETITION TO CHANGE NAME

A **Petition to Change Name of Adult** has been filed by **Mirian Jusino of Chicopee, MA** requesting that the court enter a Decree changing their name to:

Miriam Jusino

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Any person may appear for purposes of objecting to the petition by filing an appearance at: **Hampden Probate and Family Court before 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 01/07/2021**.

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance if you object to this proceeding.

WITNESS, Hon. **Barbara M Hyland,** First Justice of this Court.

Date: December 10, 2020

Suzanne T. Seguin
Register of Probate

12/25/2020

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Hampden Probate and Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
(413)748-7758
Docket No. HD20P2095EA
Estate of: Phyllis M Tougas
Date of Death: 04/04/2020
CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION

To all interested persons:

A Petition for **Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Regina A Collins** of South Hadley, MA requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that: **Regina A Collins** of South Hadley, MA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in **an unsupervised** administration.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 01/07/2021**.

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an Affidavit of Objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)

A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.

WITNESS, Hon. **Barbara M Hyland,** First Justice of this Court.

Date: December 10, 2020

Suzanne T. Seguin
Register of Probate

12/25/2020

NOTICE

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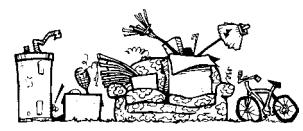

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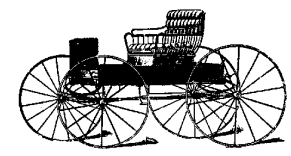

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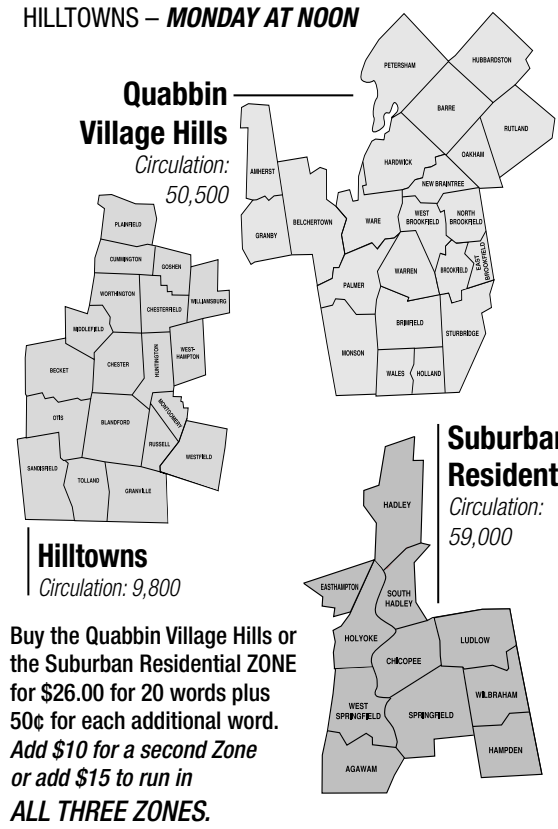
29 Base Price $30.50	30 Base Price $31.00	31 Base Price $31.50	32 Base Price $32.00
33 Base Price $32.50	34 Base Price $33.00	35 Base Price $33.50	36 Base Price $34.00
37 Base Price $34.50	38 Base Price $35.00	39 Base Price $35.50	40 Base Price $36.00



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2020: YEAR IN REVIEW

ing the May 25 killing of African-American George Floyd at the hands of then-Minneapolis police officer Derek Chauvin, who has since been fired, arrested and charged with second degree murder.

Frustrations arose locally on May 30 when it was revealed that Chicopee police officer Michael Wilk was responsible for a series of social media posts that stretch back eight years and were deemed by many to be offensive and racially insensitive. Mayor John Vieau chose to demote Wilk from his position of Public Information Officer following the controversy.

With tensions brewing, the June 8 march was proceeded by a smaller gathering at the police station a day prior. A June 10 vigil held outside of Chicopee High School would later draw an audience of nearly 100 people.

Kindness over politics: Chicopee musician advocates recovery from addiction

There's a new street-side performer in Chicopee Center, who would much rather disperse knowledge and lend a hand than collect donations. After escaping his bout with opiate addiction and homelessness, recovery advocate Kali McDonald is sharing his music and perspective in a tireless effort to lead struggling residents back onto the right path.

"I was mortified and ashamed. I never expected to have any of that kind of stuff happen to me," said McDonald. "Had I had someone to speak to, I might have been able to stop a few years earlier or had the opportunity to."

McDonald, five years opiate free, now researches and examines different community resources before encouraging them to others. In Aug. 2017, he established "Nothing but Kindness," a philanthropist co-op that aims to inform individuals of shelter, meal and recovery opportunities.

"I used to have different perceptions of homeless people or people struggling with substance abuse because I didn't understand the whole thing," said McDonald, a Chicopee resident. "People will still say, 'Just go get a job.' When you don't have clothes or a phone or somewhere to shower how do you get an interview? There are just so many barriers."

City departments throw 'In the Spirit Parade'

On a magical Wednesday evening, Szot Park was brought alive by the "In the Spirit Parade." All of the city's public departments participated in the Nov. 10 reverse car, drive through festivity that drew out hundreds of excited residents.

"We wanted to get the word out that you can have fun as long as you're safe and wear your mask and social distance. There's a lot of creative things we can do together as a city to help each other and be happy," said Michael Pise, Mayor John Vieau's Chief of Staff.

The initiative was conceived by Chicopee Fire Lt. Katie Kalbaugh and took only nine days to be realized in its entirety. The event was scheduled for Wednesday due to a favorable weather forecast; the clear skies and 70 degrees Fahrenheit temperatures did not disappoint.

"It's unbelievable. I just saw someone go by in a convertible," said Jerry Ago of the Chicopee Electric Light Department, who also gave the parade a rave review.

"This is a wonderful turnout. I think that it inspires life back into the crowd; people getting together and having fun. Look at the police department; they're over there dancing. The charisma and atmosphere feels like life again. It feels normal," said Ago.

An enthusiastic group brought Halloween into November Wednesday evening at Szot Park.

Chicopee's Colleen Court has made the most of a challenging year, and Wednesday's parade at Szot Park will be a positive memory they'll have for years to come.

King Ward Coach Lines President and General Manager Dennis King and many other attendees at the "In the Spirit Parade" at Szot Park on Nov. 10 embodied the definition of "Chicopee Strong."

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Chicopee Register

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Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

One is a free, brief **Death Notice** listing the name of deceased, date of death and funeral date and place.

The other is a **Paid Obituary,** costing $120, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice and may include a photograph. **Death Notices & Paid Obituaries** should be submitted through a funeral home to: obits@turley.com.

Exceptions will be made only when the family provides a death certificate and must be pre-paid.

A	G	A								E	B	B		
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Bright Nights at Forest Park extended nightly to 9:30 p.m.

SPRINGFIELD – Bright Nights at Forest Park has received permission from Lieutenant Governor Karen Polito to extend entry to the show until 9:30 p.m., as of Dec. 5.

The Spirit of Springfield had been allowing cars to enter Forest Park until 8:45 p.m. due to Massachusetts Governor Charlie Baker's current COVID-19 order.

"It is an extra 45 minutes of holiday cheer each night during a time when it is so needed," said Spirit of Springfield President Judy Matt. "We want as many families as possible to fill their hearts with the warmth of the holiday season while staying safe in their car. We are grateful to have the opportunity to continue to make Bright Nights a holiday tradition for so many."

Bright Nights at Forest Park will operate nightly through Jan. 6, opening at 4:45 p.m. and closing the entrance at 9:30 p.m. To follow COVID-19 safety protocols, tickets must be purchased in advance, online at brightnights.org or at Big Y World Class Markets. Visitors must stay in their vehicles at all times and wear masks when interacting with others. Restrooms are available at the entry for emergency use only.

Bright Nights' 26th season is sponsored by AAA - Pioneer Valley, American Eagle Financial Credit Union, American Medical Response, Balise Auto, Baystate Health, Big Y World Class Markets, C & S Wholesale Grocers, Charlie Arment Trucking Inc., Comcast, Eversource Energy, Gleason Johndrow Landscaping, Health New England (HNE), iHeart Media, MassLive, MassMutual, Mercy Medical Center, MGM Springfield, MP PC, PeoplesBank, The Republican, Smith & Wesson, Springfield Thunderbirds, and WWLP-22News.

The Spirit of Springfield has been collaborating with the Springfield Department of Parks, Buildings and Recreation Management since 1995 to present Bright Nights at Forest Park. The holiday lighting experience has entertained more than six million people and this year as recognized by the American Bus Association as one of their Best of the Best in their Festival and Events category.

The Brightest Joy
The Warmest Cheer
The Greatest Happiness
May this Christmas
bring you the best of everything!
May all the pleasures that inspire joy be with you at home or in spirit at Christmastime and all year.
Thanks for rooting for local businesses like us in 2020 and showing us so much support.
We look forward to better times ahead as we work to serve you safely in 2021 and beyond!
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